



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/732,920	12/10/2003	Mikio Aoki	9319M-000611	7357
27572 7590 02/21/2008 HARNESSE, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			EXAMINER DONABED, NINOS J	
			ART UNIT 2144	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 02/21/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/732,920

Applicant(s)

AOKI ET AL.

Examiner

NINOS DONABED

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :12/10/2003, 11/12/2004, 01/13/2006.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

Reference CN1246773A was not considered because no English translation was submitted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding Claims 1-3, and 5-19, the term "function provision module" is indefinite and it is unclear what it is and encompasses. For the furthering of prosecution the examiner will take "function provision module" to mean an application.

Claim 4 is rejected for being dependent on Claims 2 and 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

Art Unit: 2144

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hofrichter, (PCT/US01/45355).

Regarding **Claim 1** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches a device management system comprising: **(See Figure 1)**

Hofrichter further teaches a section for connecting a network device so that it can communicate with the system, and wherein: **(See figure 1, Page 1 lines 11-14 and Page 4 lines 12-24, Hofrichter teaches a network device connected to a management system.)**

Hofrichter further teaches when device information regarding said network device is received, functions available to said network device are determined based on said device information, and, based on the determination, a function provision module that is applied to said network device to provide it with a function is sent to said network device. **(See figure 1 and Page 4 lines 12-24, Hofrichter teaches that after receiving device information, the server determines an application and provides it to the client, where the application is performed on the client.)**

Hofrichter further teaches that the gateway is used to control the network device in the home network.

Hofrichter further teaches that an application is selected and then transmitted based on the network device information.

Hofrichter does not explicitly teach that the function provision module is configured for the network device for certain functions.

However one of ordinary skill in the art would have known that the function provision module is configured for the network device for certain functions because a gateway can control another network device.

Regarding **Claim 2** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches a device management system which connects a network device with a device management terminal that manages said network device so that they can communicate with each other, comprising: **(See figure 1.)**

Hofrichter further teaches said device management terminal including a module storing section for storing an application that is applied to said network device to provide it with functions, **(See page 4 lines 12 – 24)**

Hofrichter further teaches a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding said network device, **(See page 4 lines 12-24, Hofrichter teaches receiving device information.)**

Hofrichter further teaches a function determining section for determining an application that has a function available to said network device based on said device information received by said device information receiving section, **(See page 4 lines 12-36, Hofrichter teaches determining a selected application.)**

Hofrichter further teaches a module reading section for reading said application determined by said function determining section from said module storing section, and

(See page 3 lines 23-45, Hofrichter teaches the application being downloaded the network device.)

Hofrichter further teaches a module sending section for sending said function provision module read by said module reading section to said network device, and **(See page 3 lines 23-45, Hofrichter teaches the application being downloaded the network device.)**

Hofrichter further teaches said network device including a device information storing section for storing said device information, **(See page 9 lines 16-35, Hofrichter teaches a client having a memory unit.)**

Hofrichter further teaches a device information sending section for sending said device information stored by said device information storing section to said device management terminal, a module receiving section for receiving said function provision module and a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by said module receiving section. **(See page 9 lines 16-35, Hofrichter teaches a client having a memory unit, a cpu, and a modem for connecting to the network.)**

Hofrichter further teaches that the gateway is used to control the network device in the home network.

Hofrichter further teaches that an application is selected and then transmitted based on the network device information.

Hofrichter does not explicitly teach that the function provision module is configured for the network device for certain functions.

However one of ordinary skill in the art would have known that the function provision module is configured for the network device for certain functions because a gateway can control another network device.

Regarding **Claim 3** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches the device management system according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of said network devices are connected so that they can communicate with the system, and **(See figure 1 and page 5 lines 1-28)**

said function provision module is a module that realizes a function that is provided by at least two of said network devices working in combination. **(See page 4 lines 8-11, Hofrichter teaches that the device ID identifies at least two devices.)**

Regarding **Claim 4** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches the device management system according to claim 3, wherein said network device includes a device information acquisition section for obtaining device information for another network device other than itself from that network device among said plurality of network devices, and wherein said device information sending section sends device information stored in said device information storing section and device information obtained by said device information acquisition section to said device management terminal. **(See page 12 line 7 through Page 13 line 11, Hofrichter teaches the client acquires the device ID information device in**

Art Unit: 2144

a network and determines network configuration profile, then transmits I to the server.)

Regarding **Claim 5** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches the device management system according to claim 4, wherein said device management terminal includes a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by said function determining section, and wherein said module reading section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by the function selecting section from said module storing section. **(See page 9, lines 3-15, Hofrichter teaches a GUI which allows a user to select an application.)**

Regarding **Claim 6** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches the device management system according to claim 4, wherein said network device includes a function selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by said function determining section, and wherein said module reading section reads out a function provision module that corresponds to a function selected by said function selecting section from said module storing section. **(See page 9, lines 3-15, Hofrichter teaches a GUI which allows a user to select an application.)**

Regarding **Claim 7** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches the device management system according to claim 6, wherein said function selecting section generates a GUI screen on which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to the function provision module determined by said function determining section and presents the GUI screen to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions. **(See page 9, lines 3-15, Hofrichter teaches a GUI which allows a user to select a device and an application.)**

Regarding **Claim 8** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches the device management system according to claim 6.

Hofrichter does not explicitly teach wherein said device management terminal includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to function provision module determined by said function determining section, and wherein said function selecting section presents the selection interface generated by said selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have known that the device management terminal would have an interface similar to that of the network device side.

Regarding **Claim 9** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches the device management system according to claim 6, wherein said network device includes a selection interface generating section for generating a selection interface through which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding to function provision module determined by said function determining section, and wherein said function selecting section presents the selection interface generated by said selection interface generating section to the user so that the user can select one or more of the functions. . **(See page 9, lines 3-30.)**

Regarding **Claim 10** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches the device management system according to claim 9, wherein said device information includes device type identification information that identifies the type of said network device, and wherein said function determining section determines a function provision module that has a function available to said network device based on a function registration table that stores functions associated with said device type identification information. **(See page 4, lines 4-25, Hofrichter teaches device ID, vendor, model and serial number information, where the server determines the application based on the device ID.)**

Hofrichter does not explicitly teach registration table.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have known that a registration table would be used for storing data because this is common in the art.

Regarding **Claim 11** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches the device management system according to claim 10, wherein said device type identification information is a device type ID that uniquely identifies the type of said network device, and said function determining section determines a function provision module that has a function available to said network device based on a function registration table that stores functions associated with said device type IDs. **(See page 4, lines 4-25, Hofrichter teaches device ID, vendor, model and serial number information, where the server determines the application based on the device ID.)**

Hofrichter does not explicitly teach registration table.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have known that a registration table would be used for storing data because this is common in the art.

Regarding **Claim 12** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches the device management system according to claim 11, wherein:

said module storing section stores said function provision module as associated with user ID, said device management terminal includes a user ID receiving section for receiving said user ID, a second module reading section for reading a function provision module corresponding to a user ID received by said user ID receiving section from said module storing section, and a second module sending section for sending said function

Art Unit: 2144

provision module read by said second module reading section to said network device, and said network device including a user ID storing section for storing a user ID, and a user ID sending section for sending the user ID stored in said user ID storing section to said device management terminal. **(See page 4, lines 4-25 and page 9 line 15 – page 10 line 10, Hofrichter teaches device ID, vendor, model and serial number information, where the server determines the application based on the device ID.)**

Regarding **Claim 13** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches the device management system according to claim 12, wherein: said device management terminal includes a provision limiting section for limiting provision of a function provision module, and wherein said provision limiting section prevents a function provision module that has been once provided to said network device based on said user ID from being provided for a re-access based on the same user ID. **(See page 2 lines 23-29 and page 9 lines 9-11.)**

Regarding **Claim 14** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches the device management system according to claim 12, wherein said device management terminal includes a provision limiting section for limiting provision of a function provision module, and wherein said provision limiting section defines the provision range of function provision module for each of said user ID, and prevents provision of a function provision module that has been provided to the

network device based on said user ID beyond the provision range defined for the user ID. **(See page 2 lines 23-29 and page 9 lines.9-11.)**

Regarding **Claim 15** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches a device management terminal connected to a network device so that it can communicate with the network device, comprising

a module storing section for storing function provision module that is applied to said network device to provide it with functions, **(See page 4 lines 12 – 24)**

a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding said network device, **(See page 4 lines 12-24, Hofrichter teaches receiving device information.)**

a function determining section for determining a function provision module that has a function available to said network device based on said device information received by said device information receiving section, **(See page 4 lines 12-36, Hofrichter teaches determining a selected application.)**

a module reading section for reading the function provision module determined by said function determining section from said module storing section, and **(See page 3 lines 23-45, Hofrichter teaches the application being downloaded the network device.)**

a module sending section for sending said function provision module read by said module reading section to said network device. **(See page 3 lines 23-45, Hofrichter teaches the application being downloaded the network device.)**

Art Unit: 2144

Hofrichter teaches the application being downloaded the network device.)

Hofrichter further teaches that the gateway is used to control the network device in the home network.

Hofrichter further teaches that an application is selected and then transmitted based on the network device information.

Hofrichter does not explicitly teach that the function provision module is configured for the network device for certain functions.

However one of ordinary skill in the art would have known that the function provision module is configured for the network device for certain functions because a gateway can control another network device.

Regarding **Claim 16** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches a network device connected to a device management terminal so that they can communicate with each other, comprising

a device information storing section for storing the device information regarding a network device, **(See page 9 lines 16-35, Hofrichter teaches a client having a memory unit.)**

a device information sending section for sending the device information stored by said device information storing section to said device management terminal, **(See page 3 lines 23-45, Hofrichter teaches the application being downloaded the network device.)**

a module receiving section for receiving a function provision module that is applied to the network device to provide it with a function, and a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by said module receiving section. **(See page 9 lines 16-35, Hofrichter teaches a client having a memory unit, a cpu for execution, and a modem for connecting to the network.)**

Hofrichter further teaches that the gateway is used to control the network device in the home network.

Hofrichter further teaches that an application is selected and then transmitted based on the network device information.

Hofrichter does not explicitly teach that the function provision module is configured for the network device for certain functions.

However one of ordinary skill in the art would have known that the function provision module is configured for the network device for certain functions because a gateway can control another network device.

Regarding **Claim 17** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches a programmable computer that is connected to a network device so that they can communicate with each other, comprising:

said computer having a memory containing a terminal program for causing said computer to execute processing that is realized as a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding said network device, **(See page 4**

lines 12-24, Hofrichter teaches receiving device information and a computer having memory.)

a function determining section for determining an application that has a function available to said network device based on said device information received by said device information receiving section, **(See page 4 lines 12-36, Hofrichter teaches determining a selected application.)**

a module reading section for reading the function provision module determined by said function determining section from said module reading section, and **(See page 4 lines 12-36, Hofrichter teaches determining a selected application.)**

a module sending section for sending said function provision module read by said module reading section to said network device. **See page 3 lines 23-45, Hofrichter teaches the application being downloaded the network device.)**

Hofrichter further teaches that the gateway is used to control the network device in the home network:

Hofrichter further teaches that an application is selected and then transmitted based on the network device information.

Hofrichter does not explicitly teach that the function provision module is configured for the network device for certain functions.

However one of ordinary skill in the art would have known that the function provision module is configured for the network device for certain functions because a gateway can control another network device.

Regarding **Claim 18** as best understood,

Hofrichter teaches a programmable computer that is connected to a network device so that they can communicate with each other, comprising:

said computer having a memory containing a terminal program causing said computer to execute processing that is realized as a device information sending section for sending device information stored by a device information storing section to a device management terminal, **(See page 3 lines 23-45, Hofrichter teaches the application being downloaded the network device.)**

a module receiving section for receiving a function provision module that is applied to the computer to provide it with a function, and a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by said module receiving section. **(See page 9 lines 16-35, Hofrichter teaches a client having a memory unit, a cpu for execution, and a modem for connecting to the network.)**

Hofrichter further teaches that the gateway is used to control the network device in the home network.

Hofrichter further teaches that an application is selected and then transmitted based on the network device information.

Hofrichter does not explicitly teach that the function provision module is configured for the network device for certain functions.

However one of ordinary skill in the art would have known that the function provision module is configured for the network device for certain functions because a gateway can control another network device.

Art Unit: 2144

Regarding **Claim 19** as best understood,

Claim 19 lists all the same elements of claim 1, but in a method form rather than a system form. Therefore, the supporting rationale of the rejection to claim 1 applies equally as well to claim 19.

Conclusion

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed** to (571) 272-8300 or **mailed** to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

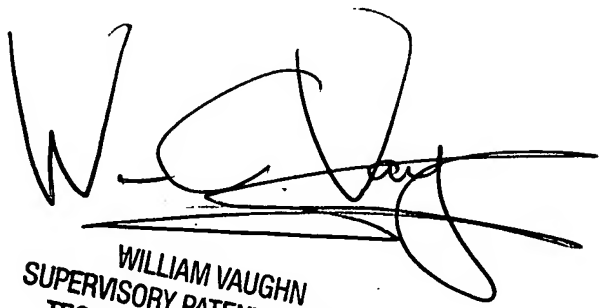
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NINOS DONABED whose telephone number is (571)270-3526. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM-5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2144

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ninos Donabed
2/12/2008



WILLIAM VAUGHN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER